60 per cent be achieved by 2000 A.D. The family welfare programme is being promoted on a voluntary basis and seeks to promote responsible parenthood with a two-child norm. Family planning services are offered as part of the health care delivery system, The percentage of eligible couples estimated to have been protected with different family planning methods is 39.9 per cent as on 31-3-88.

The effectiveness of the Family planning programme is constrained by the inadequacies in the health infrastructure and services iri the rural areas. Besides, the factors such as the prevalence of low age at marrige for females, low female literacy levels, desire for sons) continue to inhabit the adoption of family planning practices.

To keep the population growth in the country within the manageable limits, we have a well defined strategy which lays emphasis on improving quality of services, enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Prog ramme, intensifying population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication apes and involving Voluntary organisations. Besides, reinforcement of training and retraining of personnel at the grass-root level, establishing and strengthening linkages with related development programmes like female literacy and improvement of women's status and adoption of area intensive approach are some of the initiatives being considered as part of the Eighth Plan strategy.

Import Policy for finished medicines

*172. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import policy for the import of finished medicines is decided on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of finished medicines are allowed for import, which are indigenously manufactured and also exported;

(c) if so, when the list of finished medi cines allowed for import was reviewed;

(d) what are the names of t'ne fmi'shed medicines recommended for inclusion in that list and for deletion;

(e) when the next review would be made;

(f) wether it is a fact that Government had recommended for exemption of customs duty on certain medicines;

(g) if so, the names of drugs and medi cines for which such recommendations were sent during 198S; and

(h) what was the basis on which such recommendations were made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (h). The import policy for the import of finished medicines is decided by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Ministry of Commerce. The recommendations made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are also taken into consideration.

The life saving drugs and anti-cancer preparations which are either not manufactured in India or are not produced in adequate quantities to meet the requirements of the country are allowed for import by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

The list of finished medicines allowed for import are reviewed by the permanent Review Committee chaired by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and thfe is a continuous process. The additions and deletions to the list are published as Public Notice in the Gazette of india by the Minitry of Commerce from time to time.

The drugs Ceftazidime (Fortum) and Vacuronium Bromide Injection have been recommended for exemption from custom* duty during 1988 as the drugs were «•*-

sidered life saving and are not manufactured in India.

Contract signed with France to develop aircraft carrier

*173. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ;: contract has been signed sxcently with France to develop an aircraft carrier, if so. the details of the agreement; and

(b) the names of other countries which had offered to undertake the work and what are the reasons for rejecting their offer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A contract Hor the Concept Design Study of a Sea Control Ship and Audit of the Cochin Shipyard has been signed with M/s. SOFMA of France.

(b) After examination, the offer of the French Company was selected on technical and commercial considerations from among offers received from France, UK, Italy and Spain.

Steps taken by Maharashtra Government against sex.-deterniination Test*

*174. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the stepg taken by the Government of Maharashtra against sex-determination and sex pre-selection tests;

(b) whether these practices have been permitted in Goa, Gujarat and Karanataka; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a central legislation to stop this practice to cover the entire country and to ban such sex-determination tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROI KHAPARDE): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) There is no legislaiion in these States regulating the use of pre-natal diag-nostic techniques leading to determination of the sex of foetus.

t.e) Government have under consideration enactment of a Central Legislation to regulate the use and to prevent the abuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques leading to determination of the sex of foetus.

Approval for setting up of CPT project in Andhra Pradesh

*175. SHRl B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether tht Andhi;: Electronics De Corporation Limited (APEDC) has requested lor approval of the location at Kondapally Industrial Development Area near Vijayawada for the setting up of a Colour Picture Tube Project 3nd that the project is held up for want of clearance from the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the delay and the steps taken to give early clearance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAI PATIL): (a) and (b) The exact location of the project is not indicated in the proposal of M/s. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation Limited (APEDC) for manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes. The proposal has not been accepted.

Population prone *to* Iodine deficiency in the country

*176. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whtt percentage of the population